

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for sharing an input device across a plurality of computing
2 platforms, comprising:

3 routing input data generated at a first computing platform to a second
4 computing platform, said input data generated in response to receiving an input
5 signal produced by an input device coupled to a first computing platform; and
6 providing the input data to an operating system running on the second
7 computing platform;

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed via firmware in a
2 manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second computing
3 platform.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises one of a keyboard
2 and mouse. .

1 4. A method for sharing keyboard, video and mouse resources across a plurality
2 of computing platforms, comprising:
3 routing user input data produced at a resource host computing platform in
4 response to user inputs via a keyboard and mouse coupled to the resource host
5 computing platform to a target computing platform;
6 providing the user input data to an operating system running on the target
7 computing platform;

8 routing video data produced by an operating system running on the target
9 computing platform to the resource host computing platform; and
10 processing the video data at the resource host computing platform to
11 generate a video display signal to drive a video display coupled to the resource host
12 computing platform.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware stored
2 on each of the resource host and target computing platforms.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining global resource
2 mapping information identifying the resource host and the target computing
3 platforms.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining a local copy of the
2 global resource mapping data on each of the plurality of computing platforms.

1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising maintaining the global resource
2 mapping data via a central global resource manager.

1 9. The method of claim 4, wherein the user input and video data are routed over
2 an out-of-band communication channel.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the OOB communication channel comprises
2 one of a system management bus, an Ethernet-based network, or a serial
3 communication link.

1 11. The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of computing platforms comprise
2 a plurality of server blades operating in a blade server environment.

1 12. The method of claim 4, wherein the method is performed in a manner that is
2 transparent to operating systems running on the plurality of computing platforms.

1 13. The method of claim 4, wherein the method is facilitated by firmware running
2 on each of the plurality of computing platforms.

1 14. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium having
2 instructions stored thereon, which when executed on first and second computing
3 platforms support sharing of keyboard, video and mouse resources coupled to the
4 first computing platform by performing operations including:

5 routing input data produced at the first computing platform in response to user
6 inputs via the keyboard and mouse to a second computing platform;

7 providing the input data to an operating system running on the second
8 computing platform; and

9 routing video data produced by the operating system running on the second
10 computing platform to a video signal generation component on the first computing
11 platform.

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the instructions comprise
2 firmware instructions.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the article comprises a flash
2 device.

- 1 17. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations are performed
- 2 in a manner that is transparent to the operating system running on the second
- 3 computing platform.